

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5825
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 06483

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, CH, ETRD
SUBJ: SIGNING OF EC/PRC TRADE AGREEMENT

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 4560; (B) BRUSSELS 2298

1. THE EC/PRC TRADE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED APRIL 3 BY
DANISH FONMIN ANDERSEN (EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT), EC
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COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP, AND CHINESE EXTERNAL
TRADE MINISTER LI CHIANG. THE FULL TEXT OF THE
AGREEMENT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE EC OFFICIAL JOURNAL
IN A FEW DAYS.

2. IN THEIR FORMAL REMARKS (TEXTS BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM),
ANDERSEN AND LI CHIANG BOTH EMPHASIZED THE POLITICAL

DIMENSION OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, WHICH IS THE FIRST TO BE CONCLUDED ON THE BASIS OF THE COMMUNITY'S 1974 OFFER TO NEGOTIATE WITH ALL STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF A STANDARD FRAMEWORK DRAFT TRADE AGREEMENT. ANDERSEN HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT THAT LI CHIANG'S PRESENCE MARKED THE FIRST OCCASION THAT THE EC INSTITUTIONS HAD RECEIVED A MEMBER OF THE PRC GOVERNMENT. IN HIS REPLY, LI CHIANG HERALDED THE AGREEMENT AS A "NEW DEVELOPMENT IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE EC" AND RECALLED THE INTERESTS OF BOTH MAO AND CHOU IN FOSTERING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

3. IN COMMENTS WHICH REFLECT THE WELL ESTABLISHED CHINESE VIEW OF THE NEED FOR A STRONG COMMUNITY, LI CHIANG CONCLUDED: "THE SOCIAL SYSTEM OF OUR COUNTRY IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE STATES OF WESTERN EUROPE, BUT WE ARE ALL FACED WITH A COMMON TASK WHICH IS TO SAFEGUARD OUR INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON AND SHOULD PROVIDE EACH OTHER WITH MUTUAL SUPPORT. WE SUPPORT WESTERN EUROPE IN ITS UNION FOR STRENGTH AND IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST HEGEMONY. WE WANT TO SEE A UNITED AND POWERFUL EUROPE, AND THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE, FOR THEIR PART, WE ARE SURE, WANT TO SEE A PROSPEROUS AND POWERFUL CHINA. WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE EC. MAY THE

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND INCREASE IN STRENGTH* MAY THERE BE NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE EC*" MORRIS

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